

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 271542Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2178

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ANOTHER MILITARY "MEMORANDUM"?

1. THE JANUARY 26 ISSUE OF YANKI MAGAZINE REPORTED THAT A "MEMORANDUM" WAS PRESENTED TO PRIMIN DEMIREL IN DECEMBER, 1975 "WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF AND THE FORCE COMMANDERS." ACCORDING TO THE YANKI ARTICLE, WHICH WAS ALSO REPORTED IN SEVERAL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, THE MILITARY LEADERS DID NOT RPT NOT REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION, NOR DID THEY ATTEMPT TO DICTATE REQUIREMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION, THE "MEMORANDUM" SIMPLY EXPRESSED A "SUMMARY OF OPINIONS" ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(A) CONCERN OVER THE SPARE PARTS SITUATION AND THE INABILITY TO ACQUIRE NEW WEAPONS,

(B) THE NECESSITY FOR RESOLVING THE CYPRUS ISSUE QUICKLY, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL "CONCESSIONS",

(C) THE NEED TO END "ANARCHIC EVENTS",

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(D) A RECOMMENDATION FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE

JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AS A "LAST RESORT" TO RESOLVE THE AFOREMENTIONED PROBLEMS, (E) IF COOPERATION FAILED, THEN EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD BE THE ONLY SOLUTION.

2. ON JANUARY 26, PRIMIN DEMIREL RELEASED A WRITTEN STATEMENT LABELLING THE REPORT A "FABRICATION" AND DEFENDING HIS GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL DEFENSE AND CYPRUS POLICIES. HE CHARGED THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE "TO BRING THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES INTO POLITICAL ARGUMENTS BY DRAWING A PARALLEL WITH EVENTS IN THE RECENT PAST" (I.E. THE MARCH 12 MEMORANDUM). DEMIREL ARGUED THAT IT WAS THE "LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY OF THE GENERAL STAFF AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO VOICE THEIR IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE." LATER THE SAME DAY, DEMIREL PAID A RARE CALL ON GEN. SANCAR AT TGS HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE WAS ACCORDED MILITARY HONORS ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

3. SIMILARLY, THE JANUARY 26 MILLIYET REPORTED THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED FORCE COMMANDER TOLD THEIR REPORTER THAT THERE WAS NO "MEMORANDUM" PRESENTED UNDER A COLLECTIVE SIGNATURE. HE STATED THAT EACH FORCE COMMANDER HAD NOTIFIED THE TGS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF HIS SERVICE AND THE CHIEF OF THE TGS, GEN. SANCAR, HAD RELAYED THESE VIEWS TO THE PRIMIN. ALTHOUGH DENYING THAT DOMESTIC ISSUES HAD BEEN MENTIONED, THE SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CONFIRM OR DENY THE EXISTENCE OF A "MEMORANDUM". IT DOES SEEM REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT SANCAR WOULD HAVE DISCUSSED TGS CONCERN WITH DEMREL, POSSIBLY INCLUDING DOMESTIC ISSUES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY WOULD TAKE THE UNNECESSARY POLITICAL RISK OF COMMITTING TO WRITING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCH THINGS AS JP-RPP COOPERATION OR EARLY ELECTIONS.

MACOMBER

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